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Campaign for Wilson's Creek: The Fight for Missouri Begins

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lished without his permission," Temple writes (77). Although he shared the president's sense of humor and love for the theater, Brooks recognized that his "close and confiding" friendship with Lincoln did not put him on the same plane as Joshua Speed or Edward Baker (76). But he possessed the confidence of Mary Todd Lincoln, unlike presidential private secretary John G. Nicolay and his assistant, John Hay. That helps to explain why, in 1865, Lincoln picked Brooks to succeed Nicolay, who was on his way to a diplomatic appointment in Paris.

When the tragedy of the assassination intervened, Brooks returned to California and the newspaper business while working as an editor of the literary *Overland Monthly* with writer Bret Harte. Brooks eventually returned east to join the *New York World* and the *New York Times*. When he retired to Castine, he wrote prolifically about Lincoln and a variety of other subjects.

Adapted from Temple's dissertation and edited by Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, *Lincoln's Confidant* is the work of a rigorous scholar. Temple excels at describing the friendship between Lincoln and Brooks, but their relationship during the war fills only three of the book's eleven chapters. The reader is left wanting more about those years and less about some of Brooks's experiences in the decades that followed. (An entire chapter focuses on Brooks's involvement in New York literary and social clubs when a few pages would have sufficed.) Nevertheless, *Lincoln's Confidant* is a valuable contribution to the literature on the sixteenth president and his associates.

Campaign for Wilson's Creek: The Fight for Missouri Begins, updated edition, by Jeffrey L. Patrick. Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series. Abilene, TX: State House Press, 2018. 224 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, index. \$24.95 paperback.

Reviewer Kenneth L. Lyftogt is a retired lecturer in history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of several books on Iowa and the Civil War.

There is a certain geographical integrity to the Civil War, a war between the states, North against South. That clear division, however, did not apply to the border states and definitely did not apply to Missouri. Civil War scholars who attempt to explain Missouri accept quite a challenge. As the National Park Service librarian at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, author Jeffrey L. Patrick is up to the task. His easy familiarity with the complexities of Missouri and of the Battle of Wilson's Creek makes his book a comfortable read.

The Battle of Wilson's Creek, on August 10, 1862, was the defining battle of the war in Missouri, helping to set it on its course as a Union

state with strong Confederate resistance. Every battle history is a story of powerful personalities and key questions, both of which Patrick handles well. The list of personalities is long and fascinating. Brief biographical sketches, with photos of the key participants, enhance the volume.

This is, above all, Nathaniel Lyon's story. Lyon, who was killed at the height of the battle, becomes a sort of Union Albert Sidney Johnston or Stonewall Jackson, generals linked forever with the question, "What if he hadn't been killed?" Lyon was a complex character, totally fearless and self-confident yet seemingly indecisive at Wilson's Creek. Why did he call councils of war for the first time? Why did he listen to General Franz Sigel and divide his army? Who was Sigel? Why was he important to Missouri Unionists? What happened to Sigel at Wilson's Creek? Why did he fail Lyon?

This is just as much a Confederate story, best exemplified by Claiborne Fox Jackson, Missouri's Confederate governor who was also a general. Missouri politics and generalship are explained through Jackson and other Confederates such as John S. Marmaduke and Ben McCulloch.

This is also a story of the soldiers who fought the battle— young volunteers, Union and Confederate, who, despite poor equipment and inexperience, proved to be remarkable soldiers. The Battle of Wilson's Creek was the climactic moment in the legend of the First Iowa Infantry, Iowa's only three-month regiment.

The book works well as both a campaign and battle history; scholars can easily create a day-by-day, attack-by-attack calendar of the campaign and battle. It is succinct, entertaining, and informative. If this book is an example of the Civil War Campaigns and Commanders Series, the full series would be a fine part of a scholar's library.

Civil War Congress and the Creation of Modern America: A Revolution on the Home Front, edited by Paul Finkelman and Donald R. Kennon. Perspectives on the History of Congress, 1801–1877. Athens: Ohio University Press for the United States Capitol Historical Society, 2018. vi, 226 pp. Illustrations, graphs, notes, bibliography, index. \$35 hardcover.

Reviewer Richard F. Kehrberg lives in Ames, Iowa. His research and writing have focused on U.S. military history.

The Civil War dramatically changed the nature and scope of the U.S. government. It forced Congress to expand the size of the central government and enact legislation to sustain the war effort. Moreover, the absence of Southern senators and representatives allowed Congress to take action on a number of previously controversial issues, ranging from federal support for internal improvements and education to encouraging